SARA SKYWAVES

W5SRA

August 2024

President's Message

Hello August!

I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well! SARA held a Parks on the Air activation July 20. James Eatman, KG5WAW, Jeff Feldman, KI5DDX and I attended. We had a great time. Made several contacts on 15, 20, and 30 meters. Weather could not have been better. I didn't leave till around 3:00 and the temperature was around 90. I do understand I planned this event during Laurel Testing Session and caused several to miss. I will do better next time.

In September, just around the corner, we will be having elections for new Board Members. In August, we will be covering responsibilities of each officer. All positions are available, if you have any interest in serving our club and community contact Lonnie Webb, KG5WHQ at lonnie@lonniewebb.com, myself at president@sachseradio.org, or any current board member.

A reminder that Monday nights at 1900 or 7:00 PM local time SARA conducts the Ham Radio in Sachse Information Net on the W5SRA repeater. The net has been growing in size and I would like to encourage everyone take the time to share in this activity. The easy part is you can participate from your very own shack.

About a month ago I was net control and decided to try a little simplex experiment. After starting the net, we all switched to 146.400 MHz the designated frequency for Sachse emergency traffic. It was very well received. I will be net control on Monday August 5th we will do the same exercise. I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the radio on the 5th.

73,

Andy Barnes, W5KZJ

JOIN US ON THE AIR

ALL SARA operations and all Sachse ARES/RACES operations are being conducted on the W5SRA repeater

The Sachse Amateur Radio Association uses the W5SRA repeater in Sachse, TX:

Frequency:	440.350 MHz
Shift:	+5.000 MHz
PL tone:	110.9 (Tx & Rx)

SARA Weekly Information Net
Monday, 7:00 PM on the W5SRA Repeater

The W5SRA repeater is accessible via EchoLink and AllStarLink.
Sachse Radio Club **AllStarLink Instructions**: (Click Here)
Please use node 528831 to connect using AllStarLink

Next General Meeting

Thursday, August 8 @ 7:30 PM

North Pointe Church of Christ

7030 S State Hwy 78,

Sachse, TX 75048

Topic: What It Takes To Be An Officer For SARA

Andy Barnes, SARA President - W5KZJ

QSO Breakfast

Meet us each Saturday at 7:30am at **Ballard Street Cafe**, 112 N. Ballard in downtown **Wylie**. People begin showing up around 7:00 with most showing up by 7:30 AM.

Next Board Meeting:

August 22, 2024 via ***Google Meet*** at this link.

ANY MEMBER IS WELCOME TO JOIN US!!

REMINDER

Pay your dues before the September General Meeting

In order to vote on the slate of Sachse Radio Association officers, your dues must be paid for the 2024 -2025 club year. You may pay your dues at the General Meeting, or on line using PayPal. Use this link to join or renew.

Find us on Facebook!

Did you know you can keep up with events and conversations between newsletters by joining the Sachse Amateur Radio Association on Facebook? Click the Facebook link above.

July Laurel Testing License Grants

Laurel testing for July was held July 20, 2024 at the North Pointe Church of Christ in Sachse. Two individuals passed the test requirements: one for a new Technician license, and the other upgraded from Technician to General Class.

Congratulations to:

Frank Douglas KI5HDU—Newly licensed General Class, and

David Mark Beutnagel KJ5HJC—Newly licensed Technician Class.

Sunday Public Service Net

W5SRA Repeater

8:00 PM

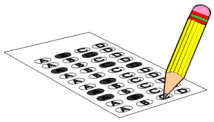
Frequency: 440.350 MHz
Shift: +5MHz
PL tone: 110.9 (Tx & Rx)

Upcoming W5SRA Laurel Testing

August 22th - 9:00am to 11:00am at 7030 S. State Hwy 78, Sachse, TX 75048. Contact:

W5JWS (John)
214.799.9927
w5jws@arrl.net

for additional details and to verify testing will occur.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Monday - "SARA Weekly Information Net" 7:00pm W5SRA Repeater

440.350 MHz,
Offset +5.00 Mhz,
PL tone: 110.9

Future SARA General Meeting Topics

Aug 8th - ***"What It Takes To Be An Officer For SARA"*** Presentation by Andy Barnes W5KZJ, Sara President

Sep 12th - ***"Club Elections"*** To serve from Sep 2024—Aug 2025

Oct 10th - ***TBD***

Murphy CERT now on W5SRA Repeater

Every third Wednesday the Murphy CERT net be on the club repeater. The net will activate at 19:00 local. The access parameters for the W5SRA repeater are at the top of this column. Might be fun to listen in, and become involved in the Murphy CERT.

Upcoming Hamfests

On Sep 14, 2024, The Enid Amateur Radio Club (ENID ARC) will hold a Hamfest at the Chisolm Trail Event Center, 111 W. Purdue Ave. Enid, OK 73701.

The Repeater for Talk-in once in the Enid area is at 444.825, +5.00, No PL needed

On Oct 26, 2024, The Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs (CORA) will hold a Hamfest at the Ardmore Convention Center, 2401 S. Rockford Rd., Ardmore, OK 73401

The Repeater for Talk-in once in the Ardmore area is at 146.970, -0.600, 131.8

If you know of any upcoming events that would be of interest to the members of the Sachse Amateur Radio, please forward the details to:

newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

for inclusion in the next edition of Sky-Waves.

Baluns

This week's ham fun has been to build a balun from scratch. I bought a "kit" - an undrilled plastic box with a gasket (water resistant)... a nickel-zinc ferrite core with a permeability of 100 and a center frequency of 15 MHz.... some magnet wire... a bulkhead mount SO-239...

Cheap - cheap. You know me. $18.

Choices

The first decision to be made: what kind of balun / unun do I want to make? I was already running a 9:1 balun. It gave me great performance on a lot of bands, but on 80 meters, the radiation resistance of the antenna (too short) was already low... and after getting cut by the 9:1 balun, it was nearly nothing. 80 meters was unusable.

I wanted to try a 4:1 balun to see if that would give me 80 meters on my long wire (43') antenna.

-

So, what topology? Balun? Unun? And how would I wind it? As a "voltage" balun? As a "current" balun? Guanella balun? Ruthroff balun? ?

Go For Simplicity

I have problems with common mode on feedlines. So, I wanted an isolated balun. I chose a very simple design: an isolation transformer wound on a single core. It's not the best for phase imbalance, but good for everything else. My end fed wire antenna would be at DC ground through the secondary winding of the balun.

-

Drilled the plastic case. The toroid had no coating on it, so I wrapped it with Teflon tape. Teflon is reported to have a dielectric strength of about 285 V per mil. Between that, and whatever the coating on the magnet wire was (?) I hoped that this would do the trick.

-

Got the toroid wound, and removed the coating on the ends of the wire with sandpaper. Soldered it all in. Time for testing!

Unexpected Results

I had modeled the antenna system with EZNEC. I didn't get what I expected.

First of all, the impedance of the balun transformer increased the "electrical length" of the antenna from 43' to 52'. That moved the "resonant" frequency (1/4 wave frequency) from 5.6 MHz to 4.5 MHz. This changed the impedance curve of the antenna substantially. With the old 9:1 balun, 80 meters was unusable. Now it was usable, but at the expense of high SWR (7+) on 40 meters and 30 meters.

My Kenwood radio has an autotuner in it. It wouldn't tune on 40 and 30 meters. My guess is, it's good for an SWR mismatch of 5:1 or less.

But, my 40 year old Versa Tuner V (3 KW rated, with a roller inductor) could handle it. I turned off the autotuner in the Kenwood and patched in the Beast (the Versa Tuner) - which is twice the size of the radio.

Because the SWR is high, lots of signal is now bouncing back and forth between the antenna and the tuner in the shack through the feedline. In cases like this, most of the reflected signal is dissipated as heat in the coax. Some is lost in the tuner... but it doesn't care. The inductors and caps in the Versa Tuner V are monster-size.

The Old Remedy

Now what? I like to say that I'm a QRP operator. With the high SWR situation on 40 and 30 meters now, I had to resort to the old amateur radio remedy: increasing the power.

So, that's what I did. I now have 80 meters on my 43' (52' ?) antenna - but I have to put more fire in the wire on 40 and 30 meters. Sad.

I guess that I could just go and cut 9' off of the antenna. I'd want to run this new balun for a while and make sure that it doesn't burn up before I consider that. Besides, if I shorten the antenna, my low gain on 80 M will get worse.

After all, this is my first homemade balun. Who knows what I forgot?

I'm not a balun expert - yet. So, take what you see above with a grain of salt.

As any doctor would tell you... don't call me... go to the emergency room.

QRP

Think of what I can do at the park with only 5 watts. In the field, I use single band, 1/4 wave verticals. Those would be "resonant" antennas. Once I get the length adjusted, they don't need a tuner. No tuner = no tuner loss. SWR of 1 means less feedline loss.

Life in the Suburbs

My house sits on a suburban lot. There is no room for a forest of single band antennas. There is no room for an 80 meter dipole. There is no room.

Trying to squeeze 80 through 6 meters out of an end fed wire sloper is a trick. It's a trick that sort-of works and sort-of doesn't. Maybe I should have been happy with what I had - running 40 - 6 meters, and optimized for 40 meters. Maybe I will go back to what I had. How badly do I want 80 meters? Do I want it bad enough to crank on a manual tuner every time I change bands?

Another Solution

One option is to buy a remote autotuner. It needs to be able to handle an SWR mismatch of about 8:1. Such things exist. It's just a matter of money.

The remote autotuner would get rid of the reflected signal loss in the feedline.

The Solution for Skinflints

What's the cheap way to solve the problem? Bye bye QRP. Turn the power knob on the radio clockwise until it overcomes the antenna system losses.

That little knob does a lot of neat things. It overcomes power loss in baluns... in coax... in tuners... and it magically makes "too-short" antennas work better.

One Blessing

Well, no matter how this all turns out... it could always be worse. I could live in an HOA.

The Irish Engineer's Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you. And, you can pencil whip an antenna design to death... but after you build it, don't tell the antenna that it can't do what it actually does.

73,

- Jim Eatman KG5WAW

SARA Club Officers for 2023-2024

Current officers for the Sachse Amateur Radio Association, per the election held at the September 2023 General Meeting.

President	Andy Barnes	W5KZJ
Vice President	Mike Crow	W5MJC
Secretary	Kathy Wingo	KI5LEY
Treasurer	Linda Smyder	K5LCS
Public Information Officer	Jeff Feldman	KI5DDX
Director at Large	John Smyder	W5JWS
Newsletter Editor	Ev Wingo	KI5LEX

Latest Update on the ARRL Cyber-attack

Updated 07/09/2024

As previously reported, ARRL® Logbook of The World® (LoTW®) returned to service on Monday, July 1, 2024. As anticipated, there was a significant rise in use to catch up on processing logs following the outage. It took 4 days for normal processing times to return.

The ARRL Radiosport Department has resumed processing applications for most awards. The systems for Worked All States (WAS), VUCC, and issuing credits for CQ WAZ and CQ WPX awards have returned to service. These award applications are being processed on a "first in/first out" basis.

WAS applications submitted through July 4 and VUCC applications submitted through July 1 have been processed. CQ awards applications are processed by CQ and not ARRL.

While we can process these ARRL awards and update records, the ability to print and deliver certificates, endorsements, and other material has not yet returned.

The online DXCC® application is unavailable at this time and DXCC awards are not able to be processed. Work continues to return the DXCC systems to service. All DXCC data is secure.

Updated 07/03/2024

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program continues to operate during the systems service disruption.

ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs) should continue to submit exam registrations and material requests. While we are unable to post new or revised exam session dates and details to the website, we can ship out exam materials. Please remember that most exam materials are available on our website (www.arrl.org/resources-for-ves). We are processing Amateur Radio License applications to the FCC. The VEC exam session upload webpage was not affected by the incident. We are currently unable to create International Amateur Radio Permits, License Class Certificates, and Volunteer Examiner (VE) badges, certificates, and stickers. New ARRL VE applications and renewals are unable to be processed at this time.

ARRL is continuing to accept reimbursement forms to cover the one-time $35 application fee for new license candidates younger than 18-years of age for tests administered under the auspices of the ARRL VEC. Reimbursement checks may take longer than normal to be processed at this time.

Updated 07/02/2024

A comprehensive update on the status of ARRL VEC services is available here.

Updated 07/01/2024

Effective 12:00pm ET / 16:00 UTC we will be returning Logbook of The World® (LoTW®) to service.

As work progressed on the network, some users encountered LoTW opening briefly during which some 6600 logs were uploaded. The logs were not processed until this weekend as we tested that the interfaces to LoTW were functioning properly.

We are taking steps to help manage what will likely be a huge influx of logs. We are requesting that if you have large uploads, perhaps from contests or from a DXpedition, please wait a week or two before uploading to give LoTW a chance to catch up. We have also implemented a process to reject logs with excessive duplicates. Please do not upload your entire log to "ensure" your contacts are in LoTW as they will be rejected. Lastly, please do not call ARRL Headquarters to report issues you are having with LoTW. You can contact support at LoTW-help@arrl.org.

Through the end of the year, you may experience planned times when LoTW will be unavailable. We have been using this time to evaluate operational and infrastructure improvements we would like to make to LoTW. Those times will be announced.

We appreciate your patience as we worked through the challenges keeping LoTW from returning to service. We know the importance of LoTW to our members, and to the tens of thousands of LoTW users who are not ARRL members. LoTW, just behind *QST*, is our second most popular ARRL benefit.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Working on a project that you think the club members would be interested in? Read a good HAM related article somewhere? Send articles to SARA Newsletter Editor: newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

SARA vice-president Mike Crow, W5MJC heads up the SARA Activities Committee. Anyone who is willing to help or has ideas may contact Mike at: vicepresident@sachseradio.org

SARA BRANDED GEAR

We now have two suppliers for SARA gear. Both of these companies have our logo on file.

HamThreads will do hats, shirts, jackets and vests. They can do single items. HamThreads is in Saginaw.
https://www.hamthreads.com

SARA NAME BADGES

If you need a SARA name badge please go to:
https://namebadge.com/sachse

ELECTIONS

Club Officer Elections are coming up in September. You must be a current-paid member of the club before you can vote in the election.

If you are interested in standing for election to one of the club officer positions, please reach out to any current club officer OR email the:
Public Information Officer

Qualifications of Officers. A member of the Sachse Amateur Radio Association may serve as an officer provided he/she holds a valid amateur radio license. To hold the office of President, Vice-President, or Treasurer, a person must have been a member of SARA for at least one (1) year prior to the time of election. For all other elected offices, a person must have been a member of SARA for at least six (6) months.

President. The President shall preside at all meetings of this club and conduct the same according to the rules adopted. The President shall enforce due observance of this Constitution and By-Laws, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents that are adopted by the club, and none other, and perform all other customary duties pertaining to the office of President including the establishment of all committees. The President shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees. The President may appoint a Parliamentarian. Shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.
Vice-President. The Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President in the absence of the latter. The Vice-President shall be the chairperson of the Activities Committee and shall be a member of the Business Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President will assume that office. Shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors
Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings including meetings of the Business Committee, keep a roll of membership, carry on all correspondence and read communications at each meeting. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the Constitution and By-Laws of the club and have the same with him or her at every meeting. The Secretary shall permit the same to be consulted by members upon request. Within three months of assuming office, the Secretary shall furnish a copy of the constitution to each member. The secretary will also be a member of the Business Committee. Shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.
Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and receipt all monies paid to the club and keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended. The Treasurer shall pay no bills without proper authorization by the club or its officers constituting a Business Committee. At the end of each quarter, the Treasurer shall submit an itemized statement of disbursement and receipts. The treasurer will be responsible for timely filing of all documents required by the state and federal governments and will document this to the board of directors. The treasurer will be a member of the Business Committee. The Treasurer shall make available to the membership the finances of the club on an annual basis, to be presented at the September Meeting. The treasurer will file the required financial reports with the Texas Comptroller and with the Internal Revenue Service annually by the due date for such documents and will report this action to the organization. The Treasurer, and at least one other officer of the club, will have a review of the previous year's account statements in the month following annual elections. Shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.
Public Information Officer. The public information officer shall be responsible for external promotion of the club to the local community. He/She maintains the club "website" with upcoming ham radio-related events and opportunities to demonstrate amateur radio to the general public at special events. The public information officer would also be responsible for the club social media accounts as an Administrator and would be responsible for getting Network Control Stations for weekly nets. Shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.
Newsletter Editor. The newsletter editor shall be responsible for the publishing of SARA newsletter. He/She is required to abide by these bylaws governing publication of the newsletter. Shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.
Director at Large. The director at large is elected by the general membership to serve on the board of directors. This position provides the tie-breaker vote and represents the general membership of the club to the board of directors.

Lite Tech Corner – Diodes – But Officer, I Was Only Going One Way!

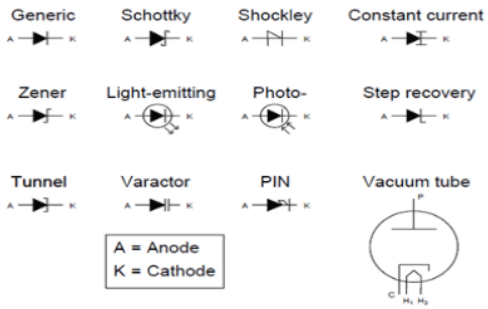
So far, we've covered the basics of AC and DC electricity along with the basic passive components (resistors, capacitors, and inductors) to lay a ground work for the active components. In this article, we will look at a very basic but important component – the diode.

Today, when one says "diode" most of us think solid state device or "semiconductor", a device manufactured through a process of joining two dissimilar materials together and attaching a lead to each side. But – before the popularity of today's neatly packaged diodes, the most common diodes were small pieces of galena or carborundum mounted in a holder of some sort with a "cat whisker" wire positioned to make contact with the crystalline structure. Wikipedia link for this early diode design is here.

Crystal detector with Cat Whisker Contact -- By J. A. Davidson - en wikipedia, Copyrighted free use,

These crystals (as they were called) were used as a signal detector for thousands of early crystal radios made by radioenthusiasts. Still, they performed the simple diode function.

Next came vacuum tube diodes. Much larger than the cat whisker type, these devices consumed considerable power to heat a filament which emitted electrons in the tube. These electrons were drawn toward a plate in the tube and current flowed only from cathode (the heated filament) to the plate, never the other way around. And this describes the basic diode function – current flows only in one direction through a diode. This is useful for many electronics functions.



Various symbols of Diode

The schematic symbol at the top left of the picture above represents a modern diode. The symbol in the lower right represents a vacuum tube diode. As you can see from this picture, there is a wide variety of diode types and functions.

Using "conventional" current flow methodology, current flows from the cathode (K) to the Anode (A). If the current flow attempts to reverse (as is the case of alternating current (AC)), the current flow is blocked. So how do we use this one-way property? Let's go back to the galena crystal.

With a galena crystal, the cat whisker wire is set to contact the surface of the crystal lightly at a sensitive point. At this point, the diode action occurs. The applied RF radio signal is an AC signal on which information is carried (called modulation). The crystal allows only one half of the AC signal to pass through it (called rectification). This half carries the audio information that is passed on to headphones or speaker.

Today diodes are used still for detection to some degree although they have been surpassed by newer techniques. Most often we find diodes used in power supplies. Here the diodes allow one half of an AC cycle to pass and block the reverse half cycle. If current requirements warrant, two diodes may be used, one for each half cycle. Variations, such as a bridge rectifier, use multiple diodes to increase efficiency.

Regular diodes are rated by the voltages they withstand and the currents they can handle. Referring to the Symbol picture above, you will see that there are many variations of the diode to meet a wide range of needs.

Next time – let's amplify the subject – transistors!

73, Bob DeVance K5CRX

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
General Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2024

Start time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: North Pointe Church

Facilitator: President Andy Barnes W5KZJ

Everyone stood and joined in to say The Pledge of Allegiance.

Members and guests introduced themselves with names and call signs.

Attendees:

Andy Barnes W5KZJ
Doug Priebe AG5HB
Jeff Feldman KI5DDX
Lonnie Webb KG5WHQ
Tessa DeVance KF5FED
Ev Wingo KI5LEX
Lisa Barnes KG5OBK
John Smyder W5JWS
Matt Jamison KI5PGL
Jim Szot N5JS
Kathy Wingo KI5LEY
Harold Liles KJ5FSI
Linda Smyder K5LCS
Bob DeVance K5CRX

New Members:

Jeremy Meier KB5UZD
Michael Stout KK6YUS

Presentation:

Bob DeVance K5CRX – *Antenna Analyzers*
Members of SARA wished to thank Bob for sharing his knowledge with us.

Ten-Minute Break

Everyone took a ten-minute break.

Business Meeting:

President's Report – Andy Barnes W5KZJ

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday July 25th at 7 p.m. via Google Meet. There is a link in SARA Skywaves, all are welcome. The next General Meeting will be on Thursday August 8th at 7:30 p.m. at North Point Church.

Upcoming General Meeting Subject Plans:

- *August – What it takes to be a club officer*
- *September - Elections*

Future General Meeting Topics:

Ideas for upcoming meetings

Please help with subject matter

VEC Needed:

Do we have a VE that would be willing to take over the Laurel Testing as the VEC?

If anyone is interested, please contact John Smyder W5JWS

Review Previous Meeting Minutes – Kathy Wingo KI5LEY

The minutes for June 2024 were in the newsletter and on the website.

MOTION: Kathy Wingo KI5LEY made a Motion to approve the June minutes.
John Smyder W5JWS seconded the Motion.
Discussion, none.
Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report – Linda Smyder W5LCS

June 2024 Treasurer Report was presented to the members.

Treasurer Report available upon request.

MOTION: Linda Smyder K5LCS made a Motion to approve the June Treasurer Report.
Ev Wingo KI5LEX seconded the Motion.
Discussion, none.
Motion carried unanimously.

Public Information Officer's Report - Jeff Feldman KI5DDX

- Saturday QSO Breakfast @ Ballard Street Café @ 7:30 a.m.
- SARA's Weekly Information Net, Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- Next Laurel VE Session July 20th @ North Pointe Church, 9 – 11 a.m.

SARA Information Net

The SARA Information Net is held on Monday, at 7:00 p.m. Weekly Information Net Control:

July 15th	Andy Barnes W5KZJ
July 22nd	Mike Crow W5MJC
July 29th	Ev Wingo KI5LEX
August 5th	Andy Barnes W5KZJ
August 12th	Kathy Wingo KI5LEY
August 19th	Jeff Feldman KI5DDX
August 26th	Ev Wingo KI5LEX
September 2nd	Andy Barnes W5KZJ
September 9th	Jeff Feldman KI5DDX

Newsletter Editor's Report - Ev Wingo KI5LEX

The July newsletter has been posted to the website and emailed to membership (distribution 162).

Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 25th of each month. The goal is to have the newsletter out on the 1st of each month.

Article Ideas:

- Projects that you are working on or have completed,

- Events and activities related to amateur radio,
- Articles you have read in other publications,

Remember, our distribution is beyond our membership and our content could encourage other people to come get involved!!

Send pictures and articles to newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

Club Activity:

Parks on the Air, July 20th 9 a.m., Spring Creek Forest Preserve, 1770 Holford Road, Garland.

Future Classes for:
Antennas
Soldering

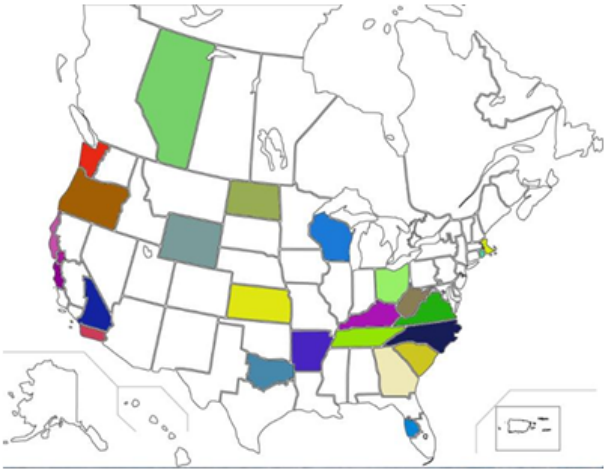
Field Day Report

Total QSO	CW 13	Digital 7	Phone 18
Total Points	26	14	18

Claimed Score = 58 (QSO points x power mult)=116

Bonus Points:

Public Location	100
Web entry	50
Total Points	266



Elections for September:

Nominating Committee:

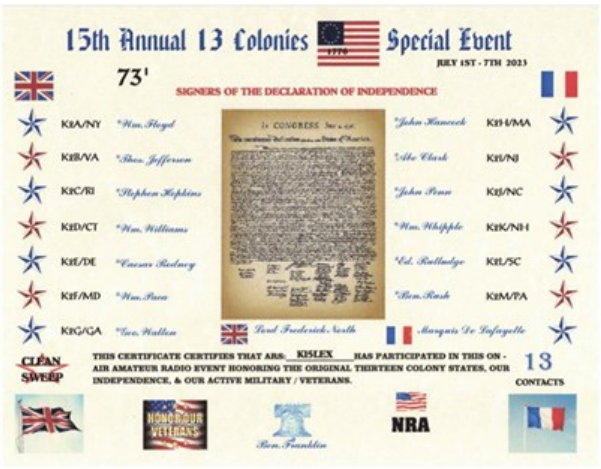
This year's Nominating Committee is Andy Barnes W5KZJ and Lonnie Webb KG5WHQ.

We have at least one individual for the following positions:
President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Newsletter Editor

We need someone for the following positions:
Public Information Officer
Director at Large

Just because there is someone slotted in a position, it doesn't mean you can't volunteer for that position. Please contact Andy Barnes W5KZJ and Lonnie Webb KG5WHQ if you wish to serve for any position.

13 Colonies Special Event: Ev Wingo KI5LEX



13 Colonies Special Event

Purpose: To commemorate the original thirteen American colonies and their role in American history.

Dates: Typically held around July 4th each year (Independence Day in the United States).

July 1 – July 7, 2024

Participation: Amateur radio operators from each of the thirteen colonies use the Special Event Call Sign. (e.g., K2A for New York, K2B for Virginia, through K2M for Pennsylvania).

Stations around the world attempt to contact each of the Special Event operators.

Stations: Special event stations set up in each colony, using unique call signs reflecting historical significance

13 Colonies Special Event

Stations (cont'd): Three special stations participate. These stations are only active (with these call signs) during the 13 colonies event:

WM3PEN – Station in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

GB13COL – Station in Durham, England

TM13COL – Station in Loiron-Ruille, France

Activities: Operators make contacts with other hams globally.

Special QSL cards often exchanged to mark the event.

Educational outreach about the history of the colonies and amateur radio.

13 Colonies Special Event

Recognition: Certificate available for any contact (only 1 needed). A $5.00 donation is requested for each certificate. No SASE req'd

Clean Sweep Award – contact recorded for all 13 colonies

Special endorsement made for contact with each WM3PEN, GB13COL, and TM13COL.

Special endorsements made for:

- All contacts QRP,
- All contacts CW,
- All contacts Mobile,
- All contacts Digital,
- All contacts over Satellite,
- Veteran,
- American Legion member,
- NRA Member,
- VFW Member

Other Business:

There was no other business.

Adjournment:

MOTION: John Smyder W5JWS made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.
Ev Wingo KI5LEX seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectively Submitted by
Kathy Wingo
KI5LEY

SARA Skywaves

Is published each month for the purpose of informing Sachse Amateur Radio Association members of current events and issues of interest to amateur radio operators. Articles and suggestions are always welcome. Articles that appear in this publication may be reproduced provided credit is given to ***SARA Skywaves*** and to the original source.
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Sachse Amateur Radio Association
Board Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2024

Start time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Google Meet

Facilitator: President Andy Barnes W5KZJ

The invocation was offered by Andy Barnes W5KZJ.

President Andy Barnes W5KZJ thanked everyone for attending.

Attendees:

Andy Barnes – W5KZJ
Ev Wingo – KI5LEX
Kathy Wingo – KI5LEY
John Smyder – W5JWS
Linda Smyder – K5LCS
Jeff Feldman – KI5DDX
Mike Crow – W5MJC

1. **Presentation for August**

   Andy Barnes W5KZJ will do a presentation on what it takes to serve as a board member.
   ACTION: No action to be taken.

2. **Calendar & Newsletter**

   The link for Board of Directors meeting on the club calendar and in the newsletter does not allow for anyone without a Google account to access the meetings on Google Meet.

   The meeting must be posted as a public meeting. The link should be the same each month.
   ACTION: No action to be taken.

3. **POTA Activation Report**

   There were three (3) people who participated in the club POTA Activation on July 20th at Spring Creek Forest Preserve with 32 contacts made using the W5SRA call sign. A more detailed report will be included in the President's message in the August newsletter.
   ACTION: No action to be taken.

4. **ARRL Application for Affiliated Club**

   When an individual joins ARRL there is some paperwork that needs to be completed so that SARA gets a portion of the membership fee ($5). ARRL has made changes to the process almost making it impossible for a club to participate. SARA has spoken to the various representatives about how

difficult the process has become but nothing has changed. Most SARA members join by going to Ham Club Online or via paper membership form.
ACTION: No action to be taken.

5. **Membership Application for 2024-2025**

John Smyder W5JWS stated that the new form ready to go to receive new membership for 2024-2025. The link on the website should change to go to the new form.
ACTION: Change link on website to reflect new year membership year.

6. **Usernames and passwords to all club accounts**

As a backup for each position, it is recommended that the secretary have access to all club accounts including usernames and passwords. John Smyder W5JWS stated that he has used a vault program to keep track of accounts. We must be cautious about allowing so many people access to the various accounts.
ACTION: John Smyder W5JWS will write up some directions on access the vault program and get with the Secretary.

7. **Nominees for Board of Directors**

The SARA Board of Directors still needs two individuals to serve on the Board of Directors for the coming year. Several current members have agreed to serve one more year. Thus far, we have the following list currently to serve as the 2024-2025 Board of Directors:

President	Andy Barnes	W5KZJ
Vice-President	Jeff Feldman	KI5DDX
Secretary	Kathy Wingo	KI5LEY
Treasurer	Ev Wingo	KI5LEX
Newsletter Editor	Lonnie Webb	KG5WHQ
Public Information	TBA	
Director at Large	TBA	

8. **Other Business**

No other business.

9. **Adjourn**
MOTION: Linda Smyder K5LCS made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Mike Crow W5MJC seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted.
Kathy Wingo
KI5LEY

Weekly Information Net Control Station Script

This net control script is a ***SUGGESTED*** script for the NCS to use to conduct the weekly net. NCS should feel free modify this script as needed to encourage maximum participation by all net participants.

(NCS Reads the text in black. Instructions to NCS are in (red).)

(A list of potential questions to ask the net attendees can be found here.)

(Preamble)

Good evening all Radio Amateurs and welcome. This is (Your Call), my name is (Your Name), and I will be your Net Control Station for this session of the Ham Radio in Sachse Weekly Information Net. This net meets every Monday night at 7:00 PM local time, on the W5SRA repeater, frequency 440.350 MHz, with an offset of +5.000 MHz, and using a PL tone of 110.9, for the purpose of discussing topics of interest to SARA members and others.(pause) This is a Directed Net. Please do not transmit unless directed to do so by Net Control. If the repeater should go down, everyone should switch to the Sachse emergency simplex frequency 146.400 MHz.

Also, if at any time you have an emergency that is an imminent threat to life or property, break in by saying*"Priority", "Emergency", or "Break Break"* followed by your call sign, and the net will recognize your station and will stand by.

(Pause)
*(*A reminder—Net Control Should ID about every 10 minutes.)

(Check-Ins)
As we start check-ins this evening, we will break them down into two categories.

1. Portable, mobile and short time check-ins.
2. General Check-ins

We will initially stand-by for portable, mobile and short time check-ins. Please, come now with your phonetic call sign, followed by your name, followed by your callsign alphanumerically.

(Recognize short time, portable and mobile check-ins individually.)
(Go through the list and allow each station to make any comments that they might have.)
(Ask for any additional check-ins.)

We will now standby for general check-ins. Please, check in now with your phonetic call sign, followed by your name, followed by your callsign alphanumerically.

(Go through the list and allow each station to make any comments that they might have. Then ask for more check-ins – this might need to be done 2 or 3 or more times – until there are no more check-ins.)
(Make sure you give your own call-sign regularly and allow others to ID appropriately as well.)
(ASK for any additional check-ins.)

(Club Announcements)

We will start off with club announcements from club officers. Any club officer on the net with an announcement, please come now with your call sign.

(Aways make certain the weekly QSO eyeball breakfast is announced)

SARA meets for breakfast every Saturday morning at 7:30AM at Ballard Street Cafe, 112 N. Ballard St. in downtown Wylie. People begin showing up around 7:00 with most showing up by 7:30AM.

(General Announcements)

At this time, we will take stations with announcements of interest to the amateur radio community in general.

(When Ham Operators check-in initially, they may tell you if they have an announcement for later in the Net. Make note of those who have announcements and recognize them first.)

(TECH CORNER and SWAP NET)

Is there anyone who would like to ask a technical question, or share information on something they would like to buy or sell? Remember no haggling over price on the air. Please come now with your call sign.

(Late Check-Ins)

Before we end this Net, I will take late check-ins. If there are any late check-ins, please give your call sign and name slowly and clearly.

(Write down and read back each call sign).

(Wrap-Up)

This is (your name and call). We wish to thank all who participated in the net this evening. This net will meet again next Monday night at 7:00PM local time on the W5SRA Repeater. The Sachse Amateur Radio Association meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30PM at North Point Church of Christ, 7030 Hwy 78, Sachse , TX. The Sachse Amateur Radio Association Board of Directors meets the fourth Thursday at 7:00PM on Google Meet. A link for this meeting is in the club calendar.

(Close the net)

This concludes the Ham Radio in Sachse Weekly Information Net. If you would like more information about the Sachse Amateur Radio Association, please visit our web site at www.sachseradio.org. This is *(name and call sign)* and we now return the W5SRA repeater to its normal use. Hope to hear from you next week. 73 everyone!